

700 Walnut St

Phila. June 1/86

My dear Mr Fox:

Your letter of the 26<sup>th</sup> of May was handed to me - I read it with great pains - as you stated your case and ~~but~~ it has been represented to you by others I felt assured that you intended no wrong, but that you were acting under a conviction of duty and very hard necessity - that gave you regrets - I deferred replying to it until I had heard from Mrs Brinckle and her son - when Mrs Brinckle brought to me the letter of dismissal that had been sent to her son by your Command, I said to her at once "Mrs Brinckle this is not the ask of Mr Fox, for he told me



that he would not remove this  
gentleman without advising me -  
I have known him all my life  
and I know him to be a man of  
his word, and I know to that he  
is a man of a noble, gentle nature  
This is no doubt prompted by  
some necessity, put upon him  
from Washington - now if it is  
from Washington, the sooner you  
go there the better and I  
advise you at once to go by the  
fast train to Washington and  
have your kinsman Mr Loe  
and my friend Mr Randall  
stop ~~this~~ order, which must  
be very peremptory, and in that  
way protect Mr Fox from  
being obliged to insist upon  
your sons removal. I then  
added to her if on the other  
hand this is an act in Mr  
Fox's office and the Department



at Washington has had nothing  
to do with it, it must be some-  
thing that Mr Fox was  
prompted to do by a subordinate  
or some evil disposed person  
of which perhaps he has not  
a clear knowledge. I will  
therefore while you are gone, appeal  
to him personally and have him  
examine into the matter which  
I have no doubt he has not  
been permitted to understand  
fully; for in the multitude of  
things he has to do, and the  
number of people he has  
about him, a removal like  
this might be made, without  
it being sufficiently and  
clearly brought to his personal  
knowledge. I will therefore  
myself, either in person or  
by letter fully explain the  
subject. Send your son to me



and go to Washington at once!"  
Mrs Brindle followed my advice  
took a letter to Mr Randall  
and went to Washington and  
and saw a kinsman of hers  
and her friend, and my friend  
Mr Randall - In advising the  
lady in this way I felt I  
was not only protecting her  
in the strongest way that  
I could, but also felt that  
if as I believed the act  
done, was done by an order  
from Washington over which  
you had no control, that I  
was securing and protecting  
you - If you saw fit to  
recommend a retraction of that  
order - I wrote you and you  
have the letter; you gave me  
a very plain, manly reply -  
Since then I have withheld



the answer until I could learn from Mrs Brindle all that had happened. She has reported to me and now I understand the subject fully; and I again with a full knowledge of all the facts connected with this case, respectfully, earnestly, urgently ask you to retract your order and replace that young man, or you may ruin him, and that I know you never will do - Neither your mind or your heart would permit you to do that - Now let me say a word or two to you upon the facts of this case; the mistakes or errors which you have had reported to you, have not been truthfully and justly reported - In the first place the young gentleman has not been guilty of



mistakes, in the plural number  
all that has been proved  
against him or charged against  
him was one small error.

Remember now how long he has  
been in the service of the Mint,  
in his responsible position  
and remembering that I may  
safely say to you it is a  
harsh judgment that would  
for a matter of a little over  
Twenty dollars, deprive him of  
his place and drive him out  
when that error was as much  
the error of Mr Dobois as it  
was his; and it was an error  
committed by accident in  
calculation and no more. If  
all were to be judged in that  
way Mr Eckfeld and Mr Mc  
Intyre, as the record will show,  
and I am advised have  
committed repeated errors again



~~and~~ that have been detected at the Department at Washington and then ordered to be corrected - now this I allude to as a lawyer would, as an act of justice to this young gentleman - It is I that have alluded to this; the young man was obliged to tell me the whole story - upon a very rigid cross examination by me; for I felt the force of all that you said as to the necessity of your being protected in an office of such great responsibility from the reckless blunders of incompetent people - and I had resolved that if in my examination it appeared that the young man merited the criticism that you put



On September 10<sup>th</sup> last wherein no man could bear stronger testimony as to industry, accuracy, fidelity, integrity and above all general deportment, as a subordinate official to his superiors, than Mr. Eckfeld testifies in behalf of that man - for the whole time he was in the service of the mint: and over his signature recommends him in the strongest terms for employment elsewhere, asking the confidence of everybody in his behalf. This started me - The young man then told me under this same system of cross examination, what is a ratification of that letter a recent one; He was married within a month to the daughter of a clergyman of



character in this city; and when  
 this marriage, an honorable  
 marriage took place everyone  
 of the officers of the <sup>Army</sup> Department  
 testified their regard for him  
 by sending him a wedding gift  
 in their united name as a  
 token of their respect and  
 esteem for him, and that very  
 gift was selected and trans-  
 mitted by Mr DuBois. Now sir  
 there can be, I submit to you,  
 both as my friend and as  
 an intelligent gentleman, there  
 can be no stronger evidence to  
 you in favor of this young man's  
 character, deportment and the  
 esteem and regard he was  
 held in by all of the Department,  
 than this. How then can it  
 be said that he lacked a  
 spirit of subordination and for



that reason was not acceptable  
and ought to be dismissed. Both  
Mr. E. C. Felt and Mr. DuBois were  
appealed to by Mr. Brinelle when  
he had received this order for  
dismissal - He went to them as he  
ought to have done, believing he  
went to friends; to learn from  
them if he could, what it  
was that had thus suddenly  
dismissed him; and leaning  
upon them as friends to help  
him, for they had prompted  
him to believe in their friendship.  
They took him into their room,  
closed the door and had a  
talk with him and they told  
him they had done and said  
everything in their power to  
have him retained - But that they  
found out that you (Mr. Dwyer) had  
a good man you wanted to put in



and that he must go. and they knew it was no use to argue about it. Mr Du Bois then told him that he (Mr Du Bois) had said to Mr Fox that Mr Bruckle would live up to every order he might issue, and that he never failed to do his work. Mr Eckfeld said he had not slept the night before, worrying over Mr Bruckle's discharge. He felt so sorry for he had tried so hard to have him retained. One word more Mr Fox - you have a right to be protected - you ought to be protected in the discharge of those duties which you do discharge so creditably so ably. Your responsibilities are enormous and those under you ought to be as responsible as you are, according to the positions



they had - Mr Brunsell has  
given a Bond for the faithful  
performance of his duties, wherein  
his mother is the obligor, and  
she is known by me to be a woman  
of considerable property - She  
owns real estate that is not  
worth a penny less than \$30,000.  
She owns it absolutely in  
her own right - It was a  
gift devised by one who loved  
her, only recently when she  
was in the midst of her trouble  
by the loss of her husband.  
She is willing to give you a  
Bond in the sum of \$20,000  
which is a very vast sum,  
permit me to say, and such as  
I do not think you would  
demand for such a position  
But such is her desire to  
protect her son and such  
is her desire to keep him



in an honorable occupation, that she is willing to do this, having faith in him, and having a desire thoroughly and fully to protect you and the Government. Now pray do retract this. It will be no reflection upon your system of acting that you have ordered a retraction under these circumstances. When you have learned how badly this young man has been dealt with - how unjustly and treacherously he has been treated - how you have been misguided and misinformed - this is the step that I know you will gladly take, as every honorable man would and I know that all the generous sympathies of your nature and that high sense



of justice which is the law of  
 your character, will not permit  
 you to rest until you have  
 restored this young man - I  
 do this of course, you will  
 have to reflect upon others but  
 as they have done injustice, and  
 mislead you, it is no more than  
 they deserve. This young man  
 ought not to be sacrificed.  
 I submit to you and ruined  
 for life under <sup>all of</sup> these circumstances,  
 which are undoubted and  
 undeniable and are laid before  
 you to secure that justice  
 which it has been the rule  
 of your life to give to all  
 men. I am thus earnest  
 about this, because, as I  
 have told you before, how  
 all the Tar who knew Mr  
 Brinckle felt for him - a <sup>man of</sup> ~~man of~~ <sup>most</sup>



refined and elevated tone of  
mind, cultivated to a high degree  
of learning as well as elegance,  
and suffering under afflictions,  
moral and physical, such as but  
few men have ever been subjected  
to - and all without fault in  
himself, and I feel a respect  
for his widow because she  
stood by him in a noble way.

I am going away - I will not  
be here - I am in search of  
my own health - I am too much  
defeated and depressed even to  
have a personal interview  
with you - But I cannot amidst  
all this depression abstain  
from doing my duty by this  
lady - and standing by her in  
her trouble and endeavoring  
to protect her son from what  
to my mind seems to be an act  
of very harsh injustice inflicted



by evil disposed people who  
have borne false witness against  
him and prompted you to do  
that which you will be too  
glad to reverse -

I am your friend  
Benjamin Harris Brewster

To the Honorable  
Daniel M Fox  
U S Mint



3785 1/2.

Phila. Pa.  
June 1. 1886.

Benjamin H. Brewster.

Relative to Mr Brinckle  
Dismissal.

Recd June 1 /86



[Abstract:] Relative to Mr. Brinkle Dismissal.

706 Walnut St.

Phila.

June 1, 1886

My dear Mr. Fox:

Your letter of the 26th of May was handed to me. I read it with great pains. As you stated your case and as it has been represented to you by others I felt assured that you intended no wrong, but that you were acting under a conviction of duty and very hard necessity that gave you regrets. I deferred replying to it until I had heard from Mrs. Brinkle and her son. When Mrs. Brinkle brought to me the letter of dismissal that had been sent to her son by your command, I said to her at once "Mrs. Brinkle this is not the act of Mr. Fox, for he told me that he would not remove this gentleman without advising me. I have known him all my life and I know him to be a man of his word, and I know to that he is a man of a noble, gentle nature. This is no doubt prompted by some necessity put upon him from Washington – now if it is from Washington, the sooner you go there the better and I advise you at once to go by the first train to Washington and have your kinsman Mr. Love and my friend Mr. Randall stop this order, which must be very peremptory, and in that way protect Mr. Fox from being obliged to insist upon your sons removal. I then added to her if on the other hand this is an act in Mr. Fox's office and the Department at Washington has had nothing to do with it, it must be something that Mr. Fox was prompted to do by a subordinate or some evil disposed person of which perhaps he has not a clear knowledge. I will therefore while you are gone, appeal to him personally and have him examine into the matter which I have no doubt he has not been permitted to understand fully; for in the multitude of things he has to do, and the number of people he has about him, a removal like this might be made, without it being sufficiently and clearly brought to his personal knowledge. I will therefore myself, either in person or by letter fully explain the subject – send your son to me and go to Washington at once." Mrs. Brinkle followed my advice took a letter to Mr. Randall and went to Washington and saw a kinsman of her, and her friend, and my friend Mr. Randall. In advising the lady in this way I felt I was not only protesting her in the strongest way that I could, but also feel that if as I believed the act done, was done by an order from Washington over which you had no control, that I was securing and protesting you. If you saw fit to recommend a retraction of that order. I wrote you and you have the letter: you gave me a very plain, manly reply – Since then I have withheld the answer until I could learn from Mrs. Brinkle all that had happened. She has reported to me and now I understand the subject fully, and I again with a full knowledge of all the facts connected with this case, respectfully, earnestly, urgently ask you to retract your order and replace that young man, or you may ruin him, and that I know you never will do – neither your mind or your heart would permit you to do that. Now let me say a word or two to you upon the facts of this case: the mistakes or errors which you have had reported to you, have not been truthfully and justly reported. In the first place the young gentleman has not been guilty of mistakes, in the plural number all that has been proved against him or charged against him was one small error. Remember now how long he has been in the service of the Mint, in his responsible position and remembering that I may safely say to you it is a harsh judgement that would for a matter of a little over Forty dollars, deprive him of his place and drive him out when that error was a much the error of Mr. Du Bois as it was his: and it was



an error committed by accident in calculation and no more. If all were to be judged in that way Mr. Eckfelt and Mr. McIntyre, as the record will show, and I am advised have committed repeated errors, that have been detected in the Department at Washington and then ordered to be corrected – now this I allude to as a lawyer would, as an act of justice to this young gentleman. It is I that have alluded to this: the young man was obliged to tell me the whole story – upon a very rigid cross examination by me: for I felt the force of all that you said us to the necessity of your being protected in an office of such great responsibility from the reckless blunders of incompetent people – and I had resolved that if in my examination it appeared that the young man merited the criticism that you put on September 10th last wherein no man could bear stronger testimony as to industry, accuracy, fidelity, integrity and above all general deportment, as a subordinate official to his superiors, than Mr. Eckfelt testifies in behalf of that man – for the whole time he was in the service of the Mint: and over his signature recommends him in the strongest terms for employment elsewhere, asking the confidence of everybody in his behalf. This startled me – the young man then told me under this same system of cross examination, what is a ratification of that letter a recent one. He was married within a month to the daughter of a clergyman of character in this city: and when this marriage, an honorable marriage took place everyone of the officers of the Assay Department testified their regard for him by sending him a wedding gift in their united name as a token of their respect and esteem for him, and that very gift was selected and transmitted by Mr. DuBois – now sir there can be, I submit to you, both as my friend and as an intelligent gentleman, there can be no stronger evidence to you in favor of this young man's character, deportment and the esteem and regard he was held in by all of the Department, than this. How then can it be said that he lacked a spirit of subordination and for that reason was not acceptable and ought to be dismissed. Both Mr. Eckfeldt and Mr. Du Bois were appealed to by Mr. Brinkle when he has received this order for dismissal. We went to them as he ought to have done, believing he went to friends; to learn from them if he could what it was that had thus suddenly dismissed him: and leaning upon them as friends to help him, for they had prompted him to believe in their friendship. They took him into their room, closed the door and had a talk with him and they told him they had done and said everything in their power to have him retained. But that they found out that you (Mr. Fox) had a good man you wanted to put in and that he must go, and they knew it was no use to argue about it. Mr. Du Bois then told him that he (Mr. Du Bois) had said to Mr. Fox that Mr. Brinkle would live up to every order he might issue and that he never failed to do his work. Mr. Eckfelt said he had not slept the night before, worrying over Mr. Brinkle's discharge. He felt so sorry for he had tried so hard to have him retained. One word now Mr. Fox – you have a right to be protected – you ought to be protected in the discharge of those duties which you do discharge so creditably so ably. Your responsibilities are enormous and those under you ought to be as responsible as you are, according to the positions they hold. Mr. Brinkle has given a Bond for the faithful performance of his duties, wherein his mother is the obliger, and she is known by me to be a woman of considerable property. She owns real estate that is not worth a penny less than \$30,000 she owns it absolutely in her own right. It was a gift devised by one who loved here, only recently when she was in the midst of her trouble by the loss of her husband. She is willing to give you a Bond in the sum of \$20,000 which is a very vast sum, permit me to say, and such as I do not think you would demand for such a position but such is her desire to protect her son and such is her desire to keep him in an honorable occupation, that she is willing to do this, having faith in him, and having a desire thoroughly and fully to protect you and the Government, now pray do retract this. It will be no reflection upon your system of acting that you have ordered a retraction under these



circumstances. When you have learned how badly this young man has been dealt with – how unjustly and treacherously he has been treated – how you have been misguided and misinformed – it is the step that I know you will gladly take, as every honorable man would and I know that all the generous sympathies of your nature and that high sense of justice which is the law of your character will not permit you to rest until you have restored this young man. To do this of course, you will have to reflect upon others but as they have done injustice, and mislead you, it is no more than they deserve. This young man ought not to be sacrificed. I submit to you and received for life under all of these circumstances that are undoubted and undenied and are laid before you to secure that justice which it has been the rule of your life to give to all men. I am thus earnest about this, because as I have told you before, how all the Bar who knew Mr. Brinkle felt for him. A man of most refined and elevated tone of mind, cultivated to a high degree of learning as well as elegance, and suffering under afflictions, moral and physical, such as but few men have ever been subjected to – and all without fault in himself, and I feel a respect for his widow because she stood by him in a noble way. I am going away. I will not be here – I am in search of my own health. I am too much dejected and depressed even to have a personal interview with you. But I cannot amidst all this depression abstain from doing my duty by this lady – and standing by her in her trouble and endeavoring to protect her son from what to my mind seems to be an act of very harsh injustice inflicted by evil disposed people who have borne false witness against him and prompted you to do that which you will be too glad to reverse.

I am your friend  
Benjamin Harris Brewster

To the Honorable Daniel M. Fox  
U.S. Mint